

Australian Wildlife Conservancy

FAURE ISLAND

June 2005

Shark Bay Mice (*Pseudomys fieldi*)

Introduction and Background

Under a Translocation Proposal endorsed by the Department of Conservation and Land Management (April 2002) eighty-six (41 female and 45 male) Shark Bay Mice were translocated to Faure Island on the 23rd June 2002. Twenty of these mice were radio-collared, incorporating 10 males and 10 females. A second translocation was conducted on the 7th October 2002 when a further 28 (14 females and 14 males) were released. Six of these, including 4 females and 2 males, were collared. All animals from both translocations were sourced from a captive breeding colony at the Perth Zoo that was established in 1996. This report details information gained during this reporting period Jan 2005-June 2005 and is an addendum to previous reports produced from November 2002.

Methods

Track Survey

The substrate of Faure Island is deep sand, providing an ideal medium for monitoring tracks. Although no specific monitoring for Shark Bay Mice occurred in this period, tracks were noted opportunistically.

Trapping

Shark Bay Mice were not targeted during this reporting period although data collected during targeting trapping for Banded Hare Wallabies and work conducted by Felicity Donaldson during this period is recorded. All trapping was conducted using Sheffield traps, no Elliott traps which have been previously used to specifically target Shark Bay Mice were used. Traps were baited with peanut paste, rolled oats and sardines. As traps are moved at regular intervals, a grid system has been developed to identify locations.

Table 1. Trapping Effort:- Jan to June 2005

Trap Type	Trap Period	No. of Traps	of Nights	Trapping Effort	Comments
Sheffield Traps	11/1 & 12/1	60	2	120	BHW target trapping
Sheffield Traps	14/1	12	1	12	BHW target trapping
Sheffield Traps	3/4, 4/4, 5/4	50	3	150	FD trapping
Sheffield Traps	7/4	20	1	20	FD trapping
Sheffield Traps	3/4	100	1	100	FD trapping
Sheffield Traps	8/4	100	1	100	FD trapping
Sheffield Traps	9/4	150	1	150	FD trapping
Sheffield Traps	10/4	142	1	142	FD trapping
Sheffield Traps	11/4	122	1	122	FD trapping
Sheffield Traps	12/4	112	1	112	FD trapping
Sheffield Traps	13/4	30	1	30	FD trapping
Sheffield Traps	8/5	28	1	28	FD trapping
Sheffield Traps	9/5	56	1	56	FD trapping
Sheffield Traps	10/5	68	1	68	FD trapping
Sheffield Traps	11/5	60	1	60	BHW target trapping

Sheffield Traps	12/5	8	1	8	BHW target trapping
Sheffield Traps	19/5	8	1	8	FD trapping
Sheffield Traps	20/5	16	1	16	FD trapping
Sheffield Traps	23/5	18	1	18	FD trapping
Sheffield Traps	25/5	18	1	18	FD trapping
Sheffield Traps	26/5	90	1	90	BHW target trapping
Sheffield Traps	27/6	90/56	1	146	BHW target trapping/FD trapping
Sheffield Traps	28/6	90	1	90	BHW target trapping
				1664	

BHW – Banded Hare Wallaby

FD – Felicity Donaldson

The traps were checked daily at dawn, with all animals captured processed. Processing included ID, weight, sex, breeding, general condition and removal of collars if applicable.

Results

Track Survey

Tracks recorded during this monitoring period indicate that SB Mice are still widely distributed across the island. The distribution of tracks during this period was similar to the last reporting period (see previous report map Dec 2004 if required).

Trapping

Table 2 summarises the trap results for this period. The full data can be seen in Appendix 1.

Table 2: Summary of trap results in this period

Trapping Effort	1522	Comments
Occasions captured	2	1 Female, 1 Male
Trap Success Rate	0.12%	

Discussion

Shark Bay Mice are still present on Faure Island 3 years after the initial release. Their range is widespread, covering all nine different vegetation complexes that occur on the island. Only 2 individuals were trapped during this period, however since no Elliott traps were used and the traps were specifically targeting Boobies and Banded Hare Wallabies, this is not surprising. A more comprehensive trapping program will be carried out in July as part of the annual monitoring prescribed in the translocation proposal. The annual monitoring will be a standardised trap effort and will include cage traps, Elliot traps, spotlighting transects & pit fall traps. (Pitfall traps may be more successful at capturing Shark Bay Mice than Elliott and cage traps.)

Appendix 1 – SB Mice caught during Jan 2005-June 2005

Date	N/R	Trap	ID	Trovan	Sex	Age	Weight	Collar	Species	Notes
12/01/2005	E				F	A			SB Mouse	Escaped, V Good Cond
9/05/2005	N	S027			M	A			SB Mouse	ESCAPED!